



Let's all go to the Movies...

Action in early "picture shows" moved faster than the pace of life in Garland itself. Standing and sitting in open lots, locals watched silent films by starlight before theater buildings could be outfitted. Like newspapers, telegraphs and telephones, movies connected us to the world outside; consequently, film content was suspect.

What began in New York City rapidly spread throughout the nation including Texas. Movie showing locations were varied. Referred to as "storefronts," an enterprising individual could lease an old store or building, rent some chairs—possibly from the local mortuary—hang a sheet on the back wall, place a rented hand-crank projector on a table or platform, and be in the motion picture business. The "flicks" entertained audiences at vaudeville houses, churches, tent shows, amusement parks, public parks, empty buildings, unused rooms, organization or civic meetings, local stores, penny arcades, town squares and vacant lots.

Lone Star Picture Shows, Richard Schroeder

Primitive by later standards, dedicated movie houses still signaled progress. In 1914, Garland proudly nestled the marquee of its privately owned Lyric Theatre between storefronts on the square's North side. With limited artistic, educational, fraternal, religious and sports activities available, films seasoned social life. Yet, promotional materials promised that entertainment content conformed to community standards of propriety.

By 1946, Garland supported three single-screen movie theaters, all enclosed and located downtown within walking distance of each other. For those who declined to walk, our first drive-in theater opened in 1949. Moviegoers could enjoy films outdoors again, but in the privacy of cherished automobiles, where they would not be disturbed. As more drive-ins sprouted, a city ordinance restricted the screening of nude images that might distract passing motorists, as well as neighbors within sight.

Eventually, theaters followed residents into neighborhood shopping centers, where a few continue operating. Though movies still entertain and inform us, television and the internet have dulled the theater's competitive edge. But some remain concerned about content in all of them.

1900

The first mention of moving pictures in Garland is Mr. H.P. Simons giving “entertainment at the Knights of Pythias Hall, consisting of beautiful songs illustrated by the Pro-jec-to Phone, which throws pictures on the screen while the song is being sung.” Admission is 15 and 25 cents. Reserved seats cost 35 cents.



Knights of Pythias Hall on Sixth St. at Main above the State National Bank ca. 1915.

1900 First Drive-In

The first “drive-in” theater in Texas occurs in Amarillo when a large white canvas is hung on the end of a Santa Fe freight car parked on a siding. Two dozen buggies and surreys park around the end of the car to view the moving picture.

1903 First Western

The Edison Corporation produces the first western, *The Great Train Robbery*, and establishes the use of shots and editing in film during its short 12-minute duration. This also marks the growing popularity of story films over daily life scenes or news.

1910

June. The Garland Stock Show of 1910 advertises moving pictures as one of the event’s attractions at Garland Fair Park.



1905 First Nickelodeons

Nickelodeons are invented and quickly explode in numbers...just two years after they began, there are three thousand nickelodeons in the United States. They decline equally rapidly beginning in 1914.

1911

July. The new band auditorium on the second floor of the brick building on the south side of the square announces its opening with initiatory performances of moving pictures. *The Garland News* notes the auditorium is a well furnished, cool hall and “should draw a good crowd.”



With the City Grocery underneath, this second story performance space now occupied by Baker Furniture is perfect for the Garland Band.

1910 Talkies Become an Option

Thomas Edison invents the Kinetophone, making talkies an option. However, they do not become popular for more than 20 years.

1911 First Newsreels

Newsreels debut in theaters and quickly become standard fare.

1912 First Credits

Performers in movies are named and given credit for the first time.

1912

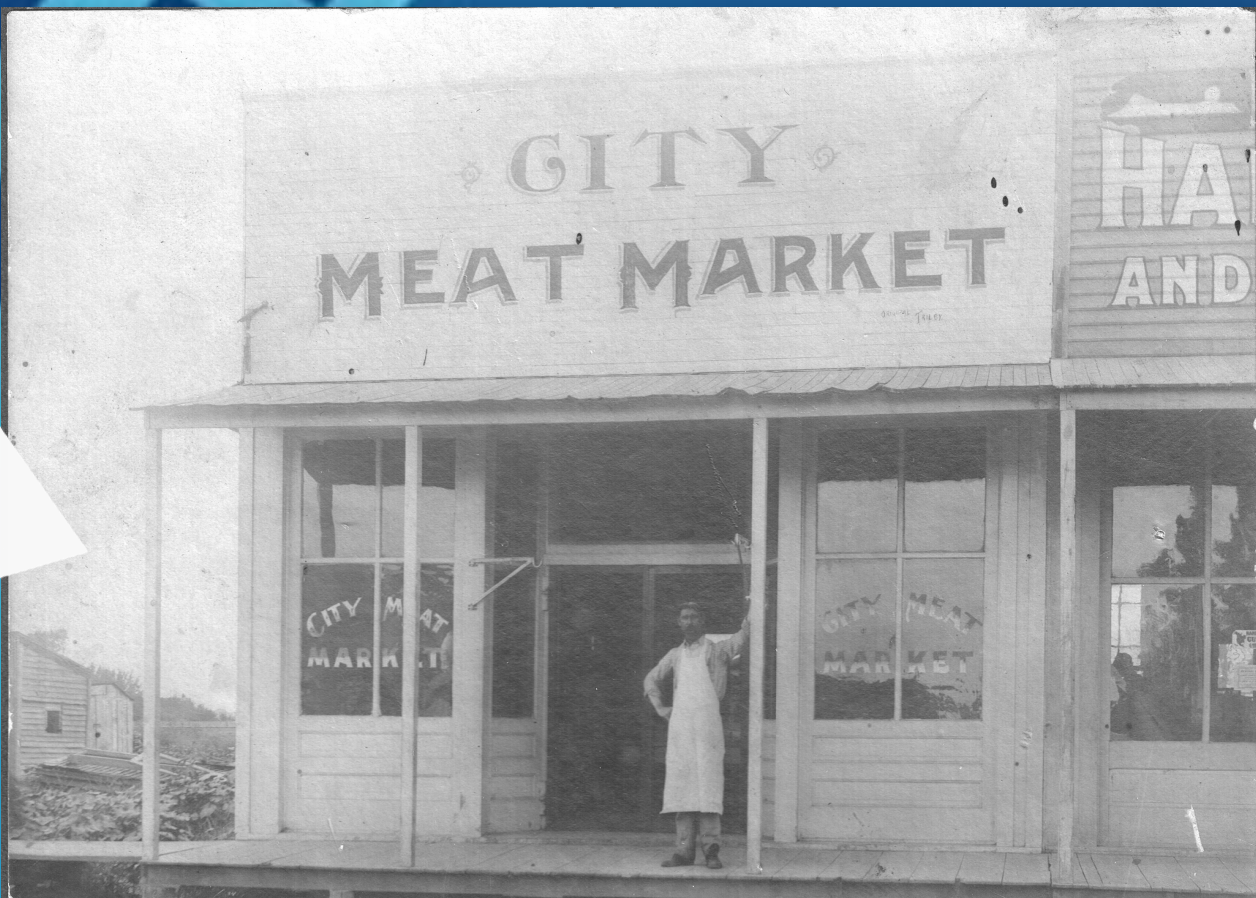
May. Green Bros. advertises motion pictures in *The Garland News* as “high class with special attention to ladies and children.” The 10-cent admission covers Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights at the old airdome stand on the southwest corner of the square.

1913

August 7. A moving picture Air Dome opens on the vacant lot between the meat market and the original Santa Fe depot location.



Air domes usually consist of four walls, seats or benches placed on the ground and no roof. Patrons endure the heat and mosquitos but not the stale air from the closely packed indoor theaters. Air domes are cheap to build and operate and are less a fire hazard. Pictured is Saugatuck, Michigan’s Airdome Theatre ca. 1912. Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society



City Meat Market on 500 block of Main Street ca. 1906. Notice the vacant lot directly to the east on the left side of the photo. This is the location for the motion picture Air Dome from 1913.

LYRIC TNEATER OPENED

Mr. Bert Payne, who has been operating a moving picture show in the garage building, has exchanged buildings with the City Garage, and has converted the Murphy building on the north side of the square into a modern, well equipped, and artistically decorated theater.

While the News stands unalterably opposed to the traveling tent shows that come to town and take away our hard earned money, leaving nothing behind, and affording but a doubtful sort of entertainment, we have always felt that Garland should have a good, first class movie, to afford an inexpensive entertainment to the people of the town. Mr. Payne has moved among us, become a citizen of the town, and money spent with him is money kept in Garland. He promises to give high class reels, free of the vulgarity and blood and thunder that is so objectionable in many movies.

He has purchased a piano to furnish music for the theater, which makes the equipment complete. He has not spared expense to make the theater worthy of the town.

1914

November, The Lyric Theatre opens in the Murphy building on the north side of the square. Owner Bert Payne promises to “give high class reels, free of vulgarity and blood and thunder that is so objectionable in many movies.” The opening programs are *Property Man*, a Charlie Chaplin two-reeler, and *The Window* starring Winneford Greenwood and Edward Coxen.



The Lyric Theatre on the square's north side. Featured in this photo is a serial, *Million Dollar Mystery* and two shorts, *The Baggage Smasher* and *Lola*, a drama about resurrecting the dead. Tickets for both silent features, showing in January of 1915, cost 10-cents.



1914 First Cartoon

Winsor McCay unleashes *Gertie the Dinosaur*, the first animated cartoon.

1917

July 13, *The Garland News* reports H. R. Rogers, recent owner of the Lyric Theater, “kidnapped” a local girl after the show Saturday night and took her against her will to “a cheap place of amusement in Dallas.” Upon learning that the officers were looking for him, he escaped to his parents’ home in Wyllie. He was arrested Sunday morning and brought back to Garland to await transfer to Dallas jail. Officers were standing with him in front of M.D. Williams’ store when Jack Johnson, father of the girl, fatally stabbed him in the chest with a butcher knife.

1922

June 2, *The Garland News* reports that while visiting her nephew G.W. Williams, Mrs. Martha Neely attended the Lyric Theatre seeing her first show ever at the age of 90. She said she “had a great time, but the action was a little too fast for her,” but with a little practice she could keep up with it.

1925

March, Bids are figured for C.M. Brown’s “finest show house in Texas.” According to *The Garland News*, the new play house for Garland will be “one of the finest in this part of the country” with a pipe organ and cooling system being exciting features. The new construction will adjoin Brown’s Ford House on Main Street, be about 30 x 100 feet and decorated with stucco and ornamental columns with an arched ceiling. This is to be the new home of the Lyric Theatre, which is currently located in a building owned by H.W. Jones. When vacated, Jones will use it to expand his hardware business giving him three full business fronts on the square.

1923 First Canine Star

German Shepherd Rin Tin Tin becomes film's first canine star. Rescued from a WWI battlefield by an American soldier, he appears in 27 Hollywood films.

1927 First Full-Length Talkie

Released in 1927, *The Jazz Singer* is the first feature-length talkie. The film stars Vaudeville sensation Al Jolson.

1928 First Academy Awards

The Academy Awards are handed out for the first time. *Wings* wins Best Picture.

1931 First Double Features

Double features emerge as a way for the unemployed to occupy time.

GARLAND THEATRE is now under New Management and Will Re-open at 7:00 Monday, Dec. 31st

With latest full range sound system, projection equipment and sound screen, bringing to you the best reproduction — equal in tonal quality to any theatre in the country.

Building has been completely overhauled and renovated, floors and aisles carpeted and premises otherwise made presentable.

We will show every night, opening the house at 7 and starting the programs promptly at 7:15.

Children under 12 10c
Adult admission 20c

A New Year's Day matinee will be held at 2:30 Tuesday afternoon, January 1st.

Wed. and Thurs., Jan 2 and 3, "The Hide-Out" with Robt. Montgomery and Maureen O'Sullivan. Chas. Chase Comedy.

Fri. and Sat., Zane Grey's "The Last Round-Up" with Randolph Scott and Monte Blue. Popeye and novelties. Watch this paper for programs.

Opening Picture

1931

February 16, Fourth year history students were disappointed when their Dallas field trip to view *Abraham Lincoln* was cancelled. When teacher Mr. Bussey learned the picture would be presented at the Garland Theatre in a few weeks, he determined it was best to call off the trip.

May, The Garland Business and Professional Men sponsor free talking movies every Monday and Tuesday night at the Fagg Theatre, but by July the program is ended.

1934

December, The Garland Theatre, previously the Lyric Theatre located on the south side of Main Street between Sixth & Seventh Streets, changes management and re-opens with the latest full range sound system, projection equipment and sound screen. The building was completely overhauled and renovated, carpeting the floors and aisles.

1935 Technicolor

With the release of *Becky Sharp*, audiences could now see films in technicolor. Two-color film technology has been available since 1922, but was rarely used.

1937

Jennie and H.R. “Bis” Bisby move to Garland and purchase the Garland Theatre building (now R-Delta Engineers).

December 23, The Garland Theatre, having been rebuilt by The Bisbys, opens with Shirley Temple in *Heidi* as “one of the most up-to-date small town theaters in Texas.” Hardin Theatre Supply Co. of Dallas furnished new projection equipment , Mitchell-Goodwin Lumber Co. of Garland provided the building material, Hall Glass Company of Ft. Worth furnished the mirror and vitrolite front and American Desk Manufacturing Co. furnished and installed the theater chairs.

1938

April 19 Roy Rogers and Smiley Burnett arrive in Garland on tour to plug *Under the Western Stars*, showing at the Garland Theater.



The Garland Theater’s marquee is visible on the left side of Bankhead Ave, now Main St. Rogers and Burnett’s route to welcoming ceremonies on the square took the actors under these banners.

1937 First Full-Length Animation

Walt Disney's first full-length animated feature, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, hits theaters and becomes an instant classic.



1939

February 20, Happy Kitchen Free Cooking School, sponsored by *The Garland News* and other Garland merchants, draws large crowds to the Garland Theatre where the school was held for three days.

February 22, H.R. Bisby purchases the building on the east corner of State and Sixth Streets. Built in 1918 and currently occupied by Cole and Davis Company it will later become the Plaza Theatre.

1940

March 11, The Baptist, Methodist, Christian and Presbyterian Churches cooperate in a two-week community-wide revival meeting with morning week-day services in the Garland Theatre. Most downtown businesses close each day from 10 to 11 a.m. for the services.

1941 First Dallas Drive-In

Dallas’ first drive-in theater is designed by architect Jack Corgan the same year the Plaza Theatre is designed. Mr. Corgan would later renovate the Plaza in 1950.



Though placed in the First United Methodist Church sanctuary in 1940, the dedication of the theatre organ takes place on February 16, 1941 .

1941

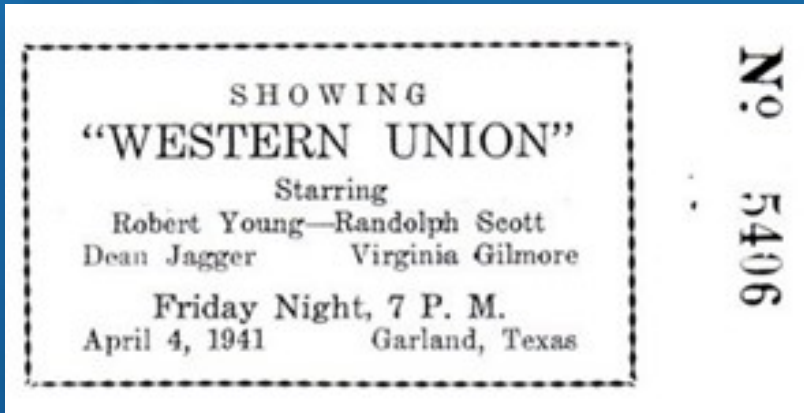
Construction of the Plaza Theatre begins. H.A. Manzer, a local lumber dealer who dabbled in architecture and other artistic pursuits, is commissioned to design the theater. Mr. Manzer creates a classic Art Deco façade, using ornamental stucco and maroon colored glass for the 50 by 140 foot structure. Spaces for small shops flank the central ticket booth and a balcony is built for seating 700.

February 16, Mr. & Mrs. Bisby, owners of local movie theaters, donate a theater organ from one of their acquired theaters to Garland’s First United Methodist Church.

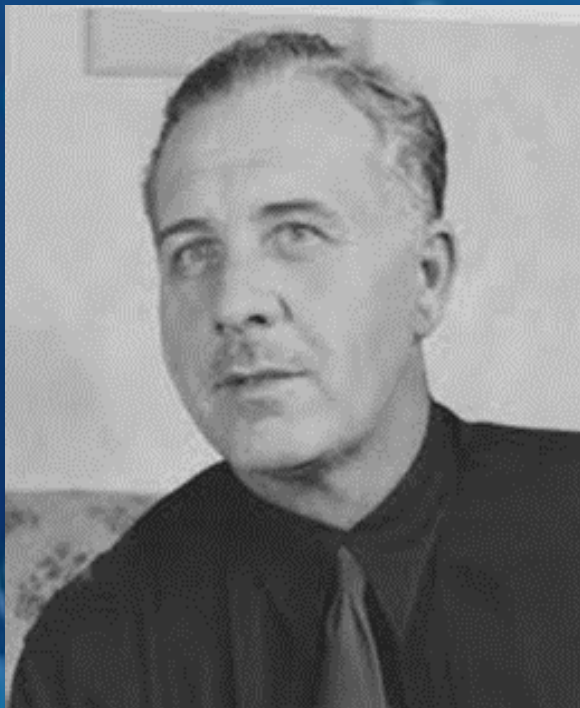
April 4, The Plaza Theatre sign brightens the downtown square for the first time. The opening show stars Robert Young, Randolph Scott, Dean Jagger and Virginia Gilmore in *Western Union*.



The Plaza Theatre's marquee announces *Mr. Belvedere Rings the Bell*, released in the fall of 1951.



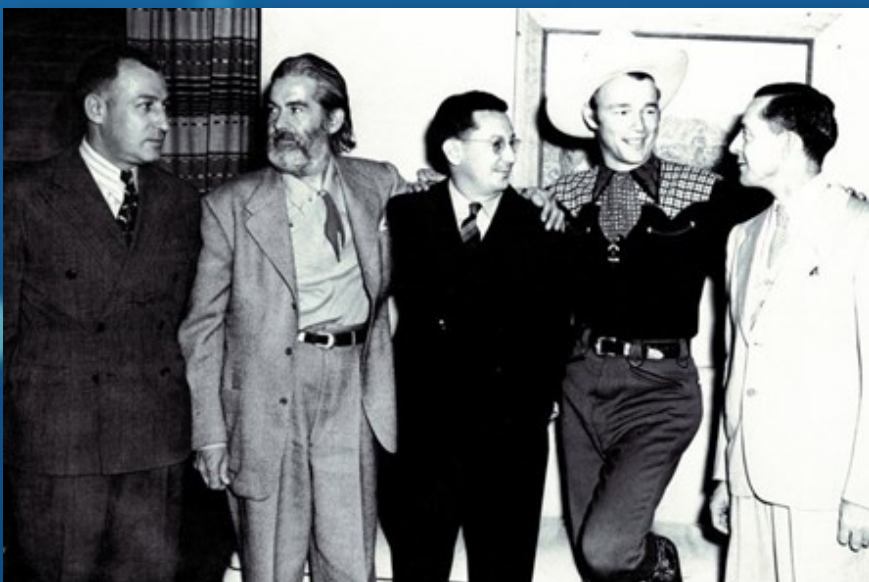
Pastel rendering of the Plaza Theater by H.A. Manzer.



H.A. Manzer ca. 1941.

1944

Roy Rogers returns to Garland with his new sidekick George “Gabby” Hayes for a wartime visit to the Continental Motors Plant (now Kraft Foods) as a part of a defense-factory tour.



Roy Rogers and Gabby Hayes at the Bisby home on the south side of Avenue E ca. 1944.

1946

January 9, The Texan Theatre opens at 514 Main St., despite delays caused by shortages of material and equipment, with a two-day run of *Rolling Home* starring Jean Parker and Richard Hayden. Next comes a one-week booking of *The Outlaw*, a Howard Hughes production featuring Jane Russell, banned by several U.S. cities by motion picture censorship boards. Interior walls of the Texan Theatre are decorated with Western murals, painted by Densil (Denny) Graves, a Southern Methodist University student.

May, Plaza Theatre replaces its washed air cooling with refrigerated air. “The air will be equally distributed over the theater through twenty outlets,” explained theater owner H. R. Bisby.

May, Garland Card and Gift Shop, owned by Mrs. F.S. Range and Mrs. James Range, replaces Vaughn’s Jewelry in the Garland Theatre Building.

May 27. Due to numerous requests, H.R. Bisby announces weekday matinees will resume on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Plaza Theatre. Matinees will be held as usual on Saturday afternoons at the Garland Theatre.



H. R. Bisby ca. 1953.



1948 Hollywood Ten

The Hollywood Ten, a group of writers, producers and directors called as witnesses in the House of Un-American Activities Committee's Investigation , are jailed for contempt of Congress when they refuse to disclose if they were or were not Communists.

1948

May 18, Garland Card & Gift Shop, located in the Garland Theater Building, closes.

1949

August, The Texan Theatre holds a Polio Drive, raising \$250 for the cause by taking a collection and showing a short film showing an appeal by the governor and patients undergoing treatment.

September, Contractors begin work on a \$100,000 Garland Road Drive-In Theatre, owned by James M. McQuaid.

November, Plaza Theatre remodeling, led by Dallas Architect Jack Corgan, moves its films temporarily to the Texan Theatre.



Jack Corgan, architect of the Plaza Theatre remodel, opens his architecture firm in 1938, focusing largely on theaters and drive-ins. In the mid-1950s, Corgan designs the Dallas Love Field airport terminal.



1950

March 16, Leaving a Tarzan movie at the Garland Theatre, 5-year-old Mary Gail Wardlow is struck by a car while attempting to cross Bankhead Avenue breaking her jaw in two places and dislocating her collarbone.

March 30, The Plaza Theatre re-opens with new terrazzo, a Densil (Denny) Graves mural in a Cinderella motif, leather seating, high-intensity arc lamp projection and an added cry room for noisy children.

April 7, Garland Road Drive-In Theatre opens with searchlights, a circus calliope band wagon and the opening feature *Oh You Beautiful Doll*. Capacity was 600 cars. Dallas-Fort Worth is experiencing a drive-in boom period with the Garland, Hines Boulevard (later renamed Big D) and South Loop all opening the same week.

1951

The Texan Theatre hosts Sunday school and preaching by the Central Baptist Church and the First Methodist Church holds their Sunday morning services at the Garland Road Drive-In.

1952

January 23. Joe L. Love, a former West Texas theater operator, purchases the Garland, Plaza and Texan theater operations. Mr. and Mrs. H.R. Bisby retain ownership of the buildings and of the Wylie Theatre, which they continue to operate.

May 9. While playing the film *Once a Thief*, the Garland Road Drive-In is robbed of \$350.



1953 CinemaScope

With the invention of television, film needed to up its game. New widescreen processes to produce bigger and more exciting films, such as CinemaScope, first seen in *The Robe*, were the answer.

First 3-D Film

The first 3-D film, relying upon stereoscopic technology, achieves wide release in 1953. Earlier attempts had been made, but the 1950s saw the popularity of 3-D.

1953

August 27. The Little Theatre group organizes to present plays at the Texan Theatre.

1957

Leon Theatres, owners of the Garland Drive-In, apply to show first-run movies in Garland homes as an early pay television experiment.

1958

August 26. The Garland Council of PTAs asks local theaters to show only national PTA “approved list” motion pictures. Harry Gleaved, manager of the Garland Road Drive-In says, “It’s a good idea, but, we can’t do it. We are in business to make money and we have to show what the masses demand.” Managers of the Plaza Theatre agreed.

OPENS

TONIGHT

OPENS

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NEW

1000 SPEAKERS

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BELTLINE-67

Open 6:30 Show Starts 7:00

DRIVE-IN THEATER

At Intersection of Belt Line Road and Hwy. 67 N.E.

— You Have Waited For It — Here It Is —

1 "It's A Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World"—25 Top Stars

2 "Beauty and the Beast"—All Star—Cartoon

1965

March. The Beltline-67 Drive-In opens, operated by Leon Theatres.

1966

February. The Garland Road Drive-In closes.



Faye Dunaway and Warren Beatty in *Bonnie & Clyde*, 1967.

1967

Bonnie & Clyde, the Oscar winning film starring Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway, is shot in various cities around the DFW region, including Garland.

September 5, The Plaza Theatre is burglarized by someone who may have been hidden in the building the night before. Investigation shows the burglars made an unsuccessful attempt to open a safe and ransack an office and film room.

TODAY AT THE NEW RIDGEWOOD

RIDGEWOOD SHOPPING CENTER IN GARLAND

AN INCOMPARABLE SHOWPLACE OF CHARM AND BEAUTY

THE ULTIMATE IN . . .

BESTFUL SEATING WITH PLENTY OF LEG-ROOM

GIANT SCREEN WITH DISTORTION-FREE IMAGES

FULL-RANGE STEREOGRAPHIC SOUND

DUAL PROJECTION SYSTEMS

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RIDGEWOOD SHOPPING CENTER

OAKLAND

KINGSLEY STREET

RIDGEWOOD THEATRE

FIRST STREET

OPENING ATTRACTION

DIRECT FROM ITS SMASH ROADSHOW ENGAGEMENT! CONTINUOUS SHOWING! SEATS NOT RESERVED! PEA. AT: 2:15 - 5:15 - 8:10

Technicolor

Walt Disney's

The Happiest Millionaire

THEATRE TOMORROW

MacMURRAY STEELE GARSON PAGE

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December 21, Ridgewood Theatre ground is broken in May of 1967. Designed by Kynn Cole, son of builder M.C. Cole, and built for \$350,000 for the Interstate Circuit. The 866-seat Mediterranean style interior features wall to wall screens, overhead vertical lift curtains, automatically controlled maskings, stereo sound and lighting auto dimmers. Ridgewood launches with Disney's *The Happiest Millionaire*. Interstate creates a 10-minute film on the City of Garland that runs prior to the show. The theater is community-minded, booking local live acts occasionally and allowing benefit screenings periodically. Except for *Midnight Cowboy*, management shows only G rated films.



Jon Voight and Dustin Hoffman in *Midnight Cowboy*, 1969.

1968

May 30, Daily matinees begin at the Ridgewood Theatre.

October 3, The Apollo Twin Drive-in, owned by Paul M. Lander & the McClendon family and occupying the previous location of the Garland Drive-In, launches a two-day grand opening with *The Lost Continent* and *The Vengeance of She* on the north screen and *The Detective* and *Come Spy with Me* on the south screen. Actor Big John Hamilton attends with KLIF AM radio. The *Motion Picture Herald* reported people were amazed at the opening calling the ‘big double A’ the “ultimate of ultimate” in drive-ins. The \$1.8 million location designed by H.A. Jordan on a 31.5 triangular acre lot can accommodate a reported 1,800 cars and another 175 walk-ins at the patio. The more than 10-story high curved screens are dubbed by Gordon McClendon as “Specturama Screens.”



Apollo Drive-In snack bar patio with candy-cane striped umbrellas hiding speakers so patrons had the option of returning to their cars or using the patio after choosing from more than 200 menu items in the 7,000 square foot air-conditioned restaurant.



Ridgewood Theatre manager Hal Burreson places a special sign announcing matinees daily starting Memorial Day. He is assisted by cashier Kay Crossman.



Gordon McClendon at the far left is on hand with his son, with ribbon cutting by beauty pageant winner crowned “Miss Garland” in the center and actor Big John Hamilton, as they open the Apollo Twin Drive-In on October 3, 1968. It was a festive and impressive opening for the Apollo Twin joining McClendon’s Astro Drive-In and Gemini Drive-In in the space age.

1969

April 25, As a part of a national “Save Free TV” campaign opposing Pay TV legislation, the Ridgewood Theatre stages a dramatic black-out of all its exterior lights from 7-9 p.m.

October, Ridgewood’s new manager, William L. Moyer eliminates G-rated films. Youth customers are accused of causing damage to seating, underage smoking, the cutting of electrical cords and general rowdiness. But the adult-only R-rated policy does not sit well with Garlandites and Moyer reversed course.

November 3-7, A community steering committee sponsors a Garland showing of *For Pete’s Sake*, picture produced by the Billy Graham World Wide Pictures Organization at the Ridgewood Theatre. Billed as “a motion picture to set your heart singing,” the showings are in conjunction with other activities including a course taught by a Billy Graham-trained instructor.

1968 First Motion-Picture Ratings
Motion picture ratings are introduced in 1968, with G, PG, R and X. PG-13 came significantly later. The X rating will later be replaced by NC-17.



Billy Graham preaches in 1969.

1969 X-Rated Movie Honored
Midnight Cowboy wins the Best Picture Oscar, the first and only time an X-rated movie received the honor.

1970

December 19, Under new management, Ridgewood Theatre hosts the Garland Police Wives Auxiliary’s showing of *My Side of the Mountain* to raise funds for community and philanthropic projects.



Apollo Drive-In ca. 1970.

1972

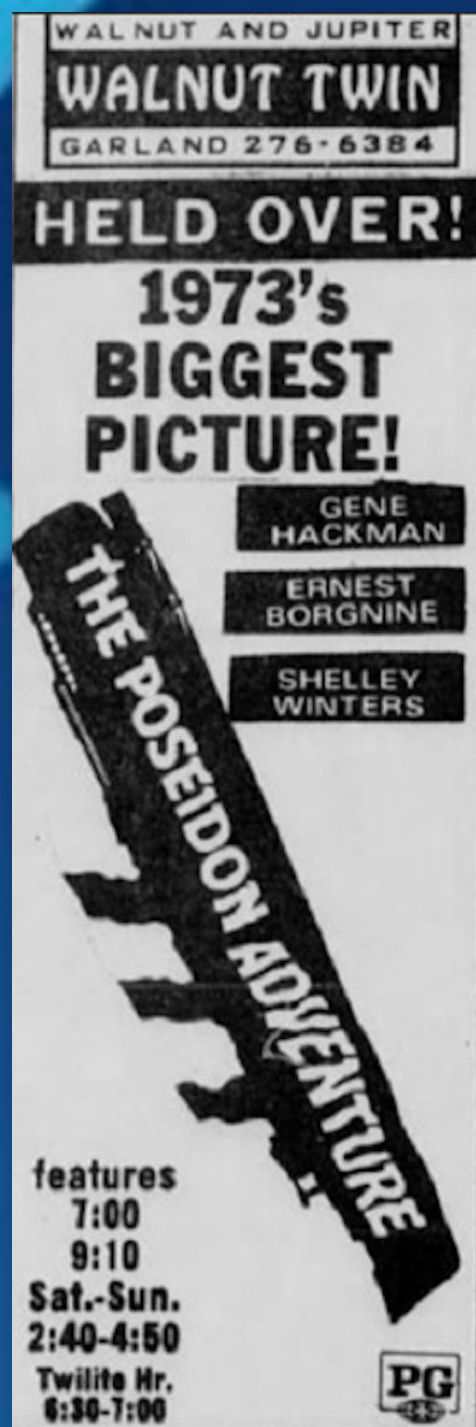
The Apollo Drive-In prompts the Garland City Council ban of nude scenes shown on drive-in screens visible by passing cars. One film, sent “by mistake,” includes lesbian love scenes. A local medical doctor remarked, “It is hard for almost any man to go by the theater without being distracted.”

September, The Movies at Eastgate Shopping Center opens as a twin-screen theater at Northwest Highway and Saturn Road.

1973

October, The Beltline-67 Drive-In closes. The parking area is still visible on GoogleMaps today.





1974

March 1. The Walnut Twin Theater opens on Walnut St. east of Jupiter Rd. Its “automated theater” concept consists of small theaters located adjacent to – or inside of – hotels or other high traffic areas and run with minimal personnel. Auditorium One has 298 seats and Two has 224 seats.

September 6. Unsuccessful, The Movies at Eastgate Shopping Center closes and reopens as Eastgate Cinemas 2 with *Bootleggers* and *Thunderbolt and Lightfoot*. Still not a hit, it is downgraded to dollar house status entering the 1980s.

Garland High School alumni Ron Bozman begins his Hollywood journey as Production Manager for *Texas Chainsaw Massacre*.



Still from *Texas Chainsaw Massacre*.

1976 Steadycam

The Steadycam, first used in *Rocky*, became available offering new options to filmmakers.

1980

The Apollo Drive-In Theatre adds a new sound system so that patrons can listen to the sound track on the car’s AM radio instead of the speakers.

1984

June 22. The Eastgate Cinemas becomes a twin screen adult theater. Scoring with X-rated hits including *Emanuelle* and *Caligula*, The Eastgate draws audiences and raises eyebrows. The attention leads to both great business and picketers protesting the operation. Members of Rev. Daniel Hicks' Four Square Gospel Church “pray for the future of morality in the city of Garland.” The City of Garland hastily pass an ordinance banning X-rated films within 500-feet of a church, park, school, or residential area.



October 14. The Ridgewood Movie Theatre, now a twin discount house, closes when the theatre manager is arrested on three counts of fire-code violations. Though it reopens shortly thereafter, the Ridgewood halcyon days were over as it continued as a twin discount house existing in a multiplex world. Eventually closing as a movie house, it books as a special events center for a short time, and then becomes a club featuring live music, which was not a success.

December 21. UA Northstar 8 movie theater opens. In 1984, United Artists purchases four acres of a 12-acre tract at the southeast corner of Beltline and what was once part of North Star Road in Garland to build a multiplex.



1986

Fall, The end of the Apollo Drive-In Theatre comes when estate of B.R. McLendon sells the Apollo to Tri-State Theatres Ltd. The theater is demolished at the end of 1986 to make way for new retail superstore, Hypermart.



The Plaza Theatre, pictured in 1992, briefly bares the moniker Texas Opera House before being restored to it's original namesake.

1991

December, John Skelton, trustee of the Bisby estate, donates the Plaza Theatre to the City of Garland.

1992

The Plaza Theatre enjoys a cleanup by employees of Garland Power and Light, the Garland Cultural Arts Commission and a \$120,000 Community Development Block Grant to clean out asbestos, repair the roof structure and install new roofing. Completed in 1994, the Plaza is mothballed in dry-shell form, awaiting future renovation as a live performing arts venue for the city.

Ron Bozman, Garland High School Class of 1965, wins an Oscar as co-producer for *The Silence of the Lambs*, only the third film in Academy history to win the “big five” for producing, directing, acting, screenwriting and Best Picture.



Garland native Ron Bozman wins his first Oscar in 1993. Pictured L-R Ted Tally, Anthony Hopkins, Jodie Foster, Jonathan Demme, Edward Saxon, Kenneth Utt, Ron Bozman.



December 18, Cinemark Hollywood U.S.A. opens. A 60,000-square foot, 15-screen behemoth, the theater opens playing *Home Alone 2* as the first of 14 features. The lobby features neon palm trees, a massive concession area, a neon Sunset Boulevard street sign over the arcade, and a Mama Rugi's pizzeria with large seating area. Nothing is subtle in the purple, green and orange color scheme, the well-lit ticket area outside or the attempt to conjure up Hollywood's past with homages to Marilyn Monroe, Betty Grable, Gloria Swanson, James Dean, and Marlene Dietrich. But on opening night, people are most impressed by the talking Front Row Joe trash cans, which had a variety of random phrases when trash was dispensed with.

1998

Renovation of the Plaza Theatre begins with plans from Garland's Ron Hobbs Architects. The original balcony structure is forgone in order to create a more open and grand lobby.

2001 Best Animated Feature

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences creates a new category for the Oscars: Best Animated Feature. *Shrek* wins the trophy.

2001

September 22, The Plaza neon sign is re-lit again for the first time in years at the grand re-opening event. The project is spearheaded by City of Garland Cultural Arts Director Patty Granville at a cost of \$1.2 million. Today the theatre is completely refurbished in the art deco style and is utilized for both live performances and movies.



2004

Garland's Ron Bozman produces *The Stepford Wives*, starring Nicole Kidman, Bette Midler, Matthew Broderick, Glenn Close and Christopher Walken.



The Stepford Wives, a 2004 adaptation of the 1972 satirical thriller novel by Ira Levin, is directed by Frank Oz.

2005

Cinemark Hollywood U.S.A. movie theater downgrades to a mainstream dollar house.

December 14, AMC Firewheel 18 opens with 18 screens and 3,300 seats.



AMC Firewheel, located at Hwy 78 and Pres. George Bush Frwy, is one of the anchor tenants of Firewheel Town Center shopping mall.

2006

January 29, UA Northstar 8 closes, with few people bothering to show up for the final shows that evening.

Ron Bozman produces *Failure to Launch* starring Matthew McConaughey and Sarah Jessica Parker.



The romantic comedy film *Failure to Launch*, directed by Tom Dey, brings in \$128.4 million at the box office.

2009

Zombieland, a movie about a student, a pair of sisters and a gun-toting tough guy trying to find the last Twinkie joining forces to travel across a zombie-filled America, is partially filmed in Garland. The city is even mentioned in the beginning of the film.



2012

Walnut Twin Theater is converted from a theater to allow for booked parties and other events.

June 30, The City of Garland begins its free Plaza Classic Movie Series at the Plaza Theatre with *Some Like It Hot*.



2015 Digital Film

Digital cinematography, the process of capturing film images using digital image sensors rather than film stock, has largely replaced analog film technology. As digital technology has improved in recent years, this practice has become dominant. Since the mid 2010s most of the movies across the world are captured as well as distributed digitally.

2019

Strike + Reel, located at George Bush and Holford Rd. is scheduled to open with 90,000 square feet and offering large-format screens, luxury recliners, full bar service, bowling, interactive video games and a restaurant.

